

MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

“Nothing about me without me”.

Alongside the increased need to recognize the importance of safeguarding adults as well as children, there has also been a cultural shift towards Making Safeguarding Personal within the safeguarding process. This is a shift from prioritizing outcomes demanded by bureaucratic systems (i.e. to know what happened; who did what to whom) to outcomes being defined by the person at the centre of the safeguarding process. There is a much stronger emphasis placed on the importance of the process by which satisfactory outcomes are achieved which take into account the individual choices and requirements of everyone involved.

“What good is it making someone safer if it merely makes them miserable?” Lord Justice Munby asks in ‘What Price Dignity?’ (2010)

What this means in practice is that adults should be more involved in the safeguarding process with their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs taken into account when decisions are made.

The Care Act 2014 builds on the concept stating that ‘We all have different preferences, histories, circumstance and life-styles so it is unhelpful to prescribe a process that must be followed whenever a concern is raised’.

However, the Act is also clear that there are key issues that should be taken into account when abuse or neglect are suspected and that there should be clear guidelines regarding this.

Making Safeguarding Personal is as relevant in sport and activity as it is in health and social care.

